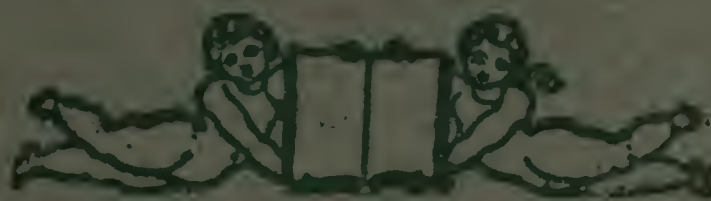


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The • Greenville Debating Society.

Should There Be Trusts?



NEW YORK & CHICAGO:

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The Greenville Debating Society.

“Should There be Trusts?”

[As this is to represent a country debating club, efforts must be made in dress, language, and articles used to carry out the idea. There should be at least ten large boys and two or three girls, but more can take part. They will bring lanterns, candles, and a lamp; each as he enters blows the light in his lantern out; two candles will be lighted and put on blocks of wood on the president's table. There must be considerable by-play; one boy will be quite roguish, but not too much so. In assembling and going, the large group when outside will sing, laugh, and talk in a natural manner. The college graduate will wear a flower in his coat and receive attention and applause. *A* and *B* enter, each with a lantern. *A* produces a candle, lights it and puts it on the table and blows out the lantern.]

A—Seems we are early to-night, Squire.

B—Looks rather liable to snow, don't it?

Gen. res. 15 Nov. 44 Franklin 13 Jun 59 Highton

2 *The Greenville Debating Society.*

(Outside—Ha, ha. Hello, Jim. Whoa, there! Don't scare my hoss. "I'll be gay and happy still," is sung; etc., etc.)

A—The young folks are on hand, anyway.

(Crowd enters, stamping feet, etc., talking and take seats. C goes to the chair.)

C (thumping)—Come to order; all take their seats. Secretary will read minutes of the last meeting.

D (coming forward)—Mr. President, I left the minutes to home; but there wasn't anything important, except the question for this meeting and that is "Should there be trusts?"

C—You have heard the question. It is now ready for discussion. Squire B will open the debate.

B—I'd rather have neighbor Jones start the ball rolling.

C—Mr. Jones, we will listen to your views since the Squire declines.

J—Well, Mr. President, I've got very decided views, I can tell you, on trusts; they are bad things. There was John Pinckney had a shoe store, and he sold shoes to everybody on trust and in one year he was a goner. I could tell you of hundreds who have come to grief because of trusting folks. I'm agin trusting.

E—Mr. President, it seems to me that neighbor Jones has got the wrong pig by the ear; he's talking about trusting; the question is about *trusts*.

F—Mr. President, there is so much courting going on behind me (turns round) that I can't hear the remarks.

C—Order (raps) in this here meeting (looks severe).

B—Yes, Mr. President, there is a great difference between trusts and trusting. I'll try to explain. Suppose

all the storekeepers in this town intrusts tueur business to one man, and there is but one store—that makes a trust. They do it to save expense. I think it is a good thing; but some think they will charge more money. It's a great deal better there should be one general in the Philippines than a dozen.

K—I call the squire to order. We started to talk about trusts and now the Philippines come in ; next we shall have Ha-wa-i and Porto Rico. I'm dead agin all this expansion ; we've got more land now than—

C—Order, Mr. K. Squire B, will you continue your remarks?

B—I've done—let him squirm.

F—I'm another that's agin all *kinds* of trusts. There is *intrust*—I intrusted my wagon to a man over in Bungtown to fix up and when I went for it there was no wagon—not a hide nor hair of one (some one laughs). I hear some one laugh ; guess they wouldn't laugh if they lost a wagon worth \$15. Next there is *mistrust*—I mistrusted a fellow who sold me a razor for 25 cents ; I wish I had that fellow here (laughter). Mr. Chairman, it was no laughing matter for me. I shed tears whenever I shave with that razor. Then there is *distrust*. Mr. Chairman, I distrust all these efforts for expansion ; we've got land enough now.

K—Mr. Chairman, I rise to a pint of order.

(A voice—Why not a quart?)

C—Order. State your pint of order.

K—Why, Mr. Chairman, we started to talk about trust, and now we hear about expansion. I am for expansion, but we met to talk about trusts, and I want to hear about trusts.

C—Proceed, Mr. L. Stick to the subject.

L—I can only say I am agin trusting anybody. I am agin mistrust, intrust and distrust, and all the rest.

C—Anyone else got remarks to make?

B—Mr. Chairman, I'd like to know if the committee is ready to give out the question for the next meeting; we may as well know what it is.

D—The committee have fixed on this question: "Should all Women Vote?"

F—I don't like that question very well; why not have it "Should women whisper, whisper, whisper at important meetings?" (Looks around.) There's been one everlasting whispering going on behind me. I couldn't hear half of Squire *C*'s valuable remarks. And the whispering wasn't about trusts neither.

C—Order on the back seats; our debate must not be interrupted. All in favor of the question proposed will say, "Aye." (Many ayes heard.) All oppose will say "No." One feeble no heard.) It is carried. Now we will proceed with the debate on trusts.

B (coughs)—We have heard that trusting, mistrusting, distrusting and intrusting are bad things; but what would we do if there was no trust in **this** world. I will give an example of what I mean. You know General Johnson; now a man intrusted \$100 to him to give to me; he brought it more than 1,500 miles and put it in my hands (applause). Yes, sir. There is a lot of business done like that. Trust, you see, is pretty much all we have. I'd trust neighbor Jones with \$100 or more; we trust every honest man; we have to. I don't mean a man should sell things on trust and not see whether the purchaser is able to pay. There is such a thing as foolishness in the world and always will be; but we have to trust in good men and in things turning out well.

Now, just a word about several men in business trusting their business to one concern—that's what some complain of—that is the trust some folks are shouting about. Mr. Chairman, when we fought agin Great Britain there were thirteen colonies. Did we not join together? That was a trust, sir; it was a good thing, sir (applause). And, sir, this Union of forty-four states with our grand flag over us is a trust, sir, and a glorious trust it is, too (great applause). I, sir, am in favor of trusts.

C—Are there any more to speak? (A pause.) I see we have present with us our young townsman upon whom Yale conferred a diploma last summer—Mr. Charles Morton (applause). We should be greatly pleased if Mr. Morton would favor us with his valuable views. (Applause. Give it to them, Charlie. Charlie is a peach, etc.)

C—Come to order.

Morton (rises and comes forward amid applause; he speaks with great force and many gesticulations. He is made much of, especially by the girls. He is applauded at the end of each sentence.)—Mr. Chairman, sir, I feel it to be a great honor to address this important meeting. Who shall put a single obstacle in the march of our glorious country? Who can stand beneath the starry folds of our flag without deep emotion? And, sir, to what do we owe our greatness? Is it not to labor? To effort? Labor, sir, drives the plow, scatters the seeds, reaps the harvest, grinds the corn, and converts it into bread. Labor molds the brick, splits the slate, quarries the marble, shapes the stone and rears the walls of cottage, palace, and temple. Labor hews down the tree, shapes the timber, builds the ship and guides it over the billows. Labor spans the great river with a bridge, suspends one over

the deep ravine, pierces the mountain with a tunnel, and lays down an iron road on which the locomotive moves with the speed of the wind. Sir, I proclaim here the dignity and value of labor. It is a mighty magician that turns the desert into a garden ; it makes the waste smile with a harvest ; the furnace blazes, the anvil rings, the busy wheel turns round, where once there was a forest, and lo, there is built a lordly town. It is effort, it is achievement, of which we, as Americans, are so justly proud. The grandest sensation one can experience is that of being an American citizen. And I, for one, believe the American eagle should spread her pinions and soar across the wide Pacific ; there where our banner looks down on the glorious victory achieved by the immortal Dewey ; there where our brave Lawton offered up his valuable life ; there we shall carry the blessings of civilization and education. A great destiny is before us ; we are to lead the benighted peoples of the islands of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans into a nobler and purer life. We are to plant our flag on the hilltops and the mountain peaks, and diffuse the sacred principles of liberty over all the earth.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity to speak on the important question that agitates this community. I shall ever be found on the side of liberty and progress. (Applause and some yells.)

C (raps)—Order in this meeting. Is there any one else to speak? (Looks around.) Then I declare this meeting adjourned.

(They crowd around Morton and shake his hand ; they light candles ; the young men offer to go home with the girls ; all go out. Outside some singing and jokes. "Whoa, there!" "Good night," etc.)

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